

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 AID-05 L-03 TRSE-00 H-01
OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 SS-15 /080 W
-----072474 101326Z /47

O P 101231Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7782
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC/DSAA/ISA PRIORITY
AFAC/SAAC LOWRY AFB PRIORITY
HQ USAF WASHDC/LGF PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3063

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SU, SA
SUBJ: F-5 LOA'S

REF: STATE 167135

1. ACCOMPANIED BY MR. SOMMER, MAJOR LESTER AND DAO, I
PRESENTED THE F-5 LOA'S TO SUDAN CHIEF OF STAFF THIS
MORNING, JULY 10, WHO HAD THREE SENIOR OFFICERS WITH HIM.

2. I POINTED OUT THAT JUST AS IN THE CASE OF THE C-130
TRANSACTION, WE HAD LOOKED UPON THE F-5 TRANSFER FROM
THE OUTSET AS A PROGRAM TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE COOPERATION
OF THREE COUNTRIES: THE UNITED STATES, SUDAN, AND
SAUDI ARABIA. I WENT ON TO STATE THAT NOW THAT THE
LETTERS OF OFFER HAD BEEN PREPARED, THERE REMAINED
TWO STEPS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED TO GET THE PROGRAM GOING:
THE FIRST WAS SUDANESE SIGNATURE OF THE LETTERS OF OFFER.
THE SECOND WAS A WRITTEN GUARANTEE FROM THE SAUDI
AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WOULD FINANCE THE PROGRAM.

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3. I THEREUPON HANDED THE CHIEF OF STAFF COPIES OF THE
TWO LETTERS SET FORTH IN REFTEL. HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES
READ THEM CAREFULLY AND INTERPOSED NO RPT NO OBJECTION
EITHER TO THE AMOUNT INVOLVED NOR TO THE REQUIREMENT OF
A SAUDI WRITTEN GUARANTEE.

4. CHIEF OF STAFF THEN ASKED

WHEN THE LOA FOR THE RADAR WOULD BE READY. WE SAID THAT THE SURVEY TEAM WAS STILL WRITING ITS REPORT AND THAT IT MIGHT TAKE UNTIL OCTOBER UNTIL THE REPORT COULD BE DIGESTED AND DETAILED LETTERS OF OFFER PREPARED. THIS DEFERRED DELIVERY OF RADAR LOA'S DID NOT SEEM TO BOTHER CHIEF OF STAFF. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT SUDANESE, WHEN THEY APPROACHED THE SAUDIS, WANTED TO HAVE THE FIGURES COVERING THE ENTIRE AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE, I.E. F-5'S AND RADAR. HE, THEREFORE, URGED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM WITH AN ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF THE RADAR PROGRAM BY NLT JULY 24 SO THAT GOS CAN LAY ENTIRE PACKAGE BEFORE THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD HIS POSITION AND THAT I WOULD DO MY BEST TO GET A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE RADAR COSTS SOONEST. I THEN WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING, LEAVING THE MILITARY ON BOTH SIDES TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE F-5 LOA'S.

5. F-5 LOA PRESENTATION TEAM REVIEWED LETTERS OF OFFER LINE BY LINE WITH SUDANESE STAFF. SUDANESE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ALL PORTIONS OF LOA'S EXCEPT AIRCRAFT DELIVERY SCHEDULE. TEAM EXPLAINED THAT DELIVERY SCHEDULE HAD BEEN REVIEWED AT TOP LEVELS AT STATE AND DEFENSE AND BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS FMS COMMITMENTS, PRODUCTION SCHEDULES, AND TRAINING AND SUPPORT PROBLEMS, DELIVERY SCHEDULE DESCRIBED IN LOA WAS BEST USG COULD OFFER. CHIEF OF STAFF SAID PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MAY WISH CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR.

6. ONLY OTHER ISSUE WAS SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON WHY LOA DID NOT OFFER AIRBASE CONSTRUCTION REQUESTED DURING SITE SURVEY. FOLLOWING OUR EXPLANATION THAT INCLUSION OF CONSTRUCTION WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED SCOPE AND COST OF F-5 PROGRAM, CHIEF OF STAFF INDICATED GOS WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION AND AIRBASE IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED FOR F-5 PROGRAM.

7. CHIEF OF STAFF SAID THAT SUDANESE AIR FORCE WOULD REVIEW F-5 LETTERS OF OFFER OVER NEXT FEW DAYS AND IMPLICATION WAS THAT GOS WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT ALL OPTIONS. TEAM NOTED REQUIREMENT FOR GOS TO PROVIDE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF ALL ACCEPTED OPTIONS. FYI: TEAM HAS EXPLAINED PROCEDURES TO DAO FOR MAKING APPROPRIATE PEN AND INK CHANGES AND FOR RECOMPUTING CASE VALUES. END FYI. CHIEF OF STAFF ASKED FOR EXTENSION OF AUGUST 1 EXPIRATION DATE ON LOA'S. TEAM RECOMMENDED AND CHIEF OF STAFF ACCEPTED, THAT GOS CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING FIRST STEP PRIOR TO 1 AUGUST EXPIRATION DATE, I.E., SIGN LOA; IF THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE,

GOS THROUGH EMBASSY SHOULD, DURING LAST WEEK OF JULY, SUBMIT REQUEST TO EXTEND LOA FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH. IN CLOSING, CHIEF OF STAFF SAID FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF OAU CONFERENCE AND RECEIPT OF ROUGH COST ESTIMATE FOR RADAR PROGRAM, GOS WOULD APPROACH SAUDIS FOR WRITTEN GUARANTEE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD HOPE THAT MATTER OF PROVIDING ESTIMATED COST OF RADAR WOULD BE GIVEN SUFFICIENT HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION IN BOTH STATE AND DEFENSE SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE A FIGURE TO THE SUDANESE BY JULY 24. I CAN UNDERSTAND THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID HAVING TO MAKE A SERIES OF REQUESTS TO THE SAUDIS OVER THE COMING MONTHS.

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9. I UNDERSTAND THE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT IT TOOK IN STATE AND DEFENSE TO GET THESE F-5 LOA'S TOGETHER AND TO GET MR. SOMMER AND MAJOR LESTER HERE TO PRESENT THEM AT THIS TIME. I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THESE EFFORTS. ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.
BERGUS

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